

PAUL BOOKOUT
ASSISTANT PRO TEMPORE

SENATOR
14TH DISTRICT
OFFICE: 870-932-6662

1900 WEST WASHINGTON
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401-2577



**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

MEMBER:
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
JOINT BUDGET
JOINT RETIREMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY
JOINT ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
INSURANCE & COMMERCE

October 13, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

As a State Senator representing Jonesboro and northeast Arkansas, I appreciate the tremendous responsibility you bear. I know you share my appreciation for the many economic, educational and social benefits the Internet offers, and the fact you want to see these benefits expanded to every American. In that spirit I am offering comments on the Net Neutrality regulations you are considering.

Most Americans have high-speed Internet access but many do not – including some of my constituents. In your rulemaking, please keep in mind citizens in less populated areas who may not have broadband available, and only adopt rules that make affordable, high-speed service more accessible. Also remember the use of wireless Internet technology is growing exponentially. The rules should consider the need for continued growth of next-generation mobile services.

Senator Paul Bookout
Letter to Federal Communications Commission
October 13, 2009
Page 2

Any unwarranted regulation could have the unintended consequence of stifling Internet growth, thus harming Arkansans. I urge caution as you consider Net Neutrality regulations considering current Net Neutrality principles are working. Billions of transactions happen every day, and the FCC has seen only a handful of cases where Net Neutrality was not observed. Unnecessary Net Neutrality regulation could also limit the hundreds of billions needed to build next-generation networks, both wired and wireless. Government should encourage private investment and innovation, not burden it with over regulation.

I believe the FCC should regulate as much as it needs to, but absolutely no more than necessary. Any new regulation should be undertaken with great care to avoid unintended consequences. I appreciate the opportunity to share my views on this subject that is so important to my constituents and all Americans. Thank you for all you do to serve our nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul Bookout". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent than the last name "Bookout".

Paul Bookout
President Pro Tempore-Elect
District 14